



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
REGION NINE
CALIFORNIA DIVISION
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Sacramento, California 95814-2724

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November 13, 1996

IN REPLY REFER TO
HPR-CA

File #: 1040.2 MCAG
Document #: 10805

Mr. James W. van Loben Sels, Director
CALTRANS, 1120 N Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Branch, Room 3500
for Garland Hagen

Dear Mr. van Loben Sels:

SUBJECT: MCAG 96/97 FTIP AMENDMENT NO. 1

We have completed our review of the Merced County Association of Government's (MCAG) Amendment No. 1 to its 1996/97 through 1998/99 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that was submitted with your letter dated October 17, 1996. MCAG's Amendment No. 1 proposes to add a \$500,000 lump-sum designation to the Section 1010 Program in FY 1996/97.

We accept this Amendment in accordance with 23 CFR 450 and find that this MCAG TIP amendment was developed based on a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process in accordance with 23 USC 134 and Section 5303 of the Federal Transit Act (49 USC 53). The high-speed highway rail grade crossing hazard elimination funding added by this amendment is exempt from the requirement that a conformity determination be performed [40 CFR §51.460 and §93.134].

This finding has been coordinated with the Regional office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Region Nine office of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding on single mode TIP Amendments dated March 8, 1996.

This letter also constitutes approval, and inclusion of MCAG's TIP Amendment No. 1 into California's 1996/97 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP).

Sincerely yours,

For:

David H. Densmore
Division Administrator

cc:

MCAG 1996-97 TIP Binder, w/cy of Amendment
FSTIP Binder, w/cy of Caltrans Letter
FHWA, HC-CA
FHWA, HPD-09
FTA, Bill Powell
EPA, Sam Agpawa
MCAG

Caltrans:

Federal Resources Branch, Dick Petrie
Office of Local Programs, Bob Everitt
Environmental Division, Steve Borroum